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## BRYAN IN NEBRASKA

Rockville (Ind.) Tribune: William J. Bryan's course at the Baltimore convention was overwhelmingly indorsed at the Nebraska state convention. Mr. Bryan has been severely criticised by those who objected to his change from Clark to Wilson on the ground that the Nebraska delegates had been instructed at a primary election for Clark. But the vote for Clark, as Mr. Bryan construed it, was a vote for him as a progressive—not a reactionary—and the instructions were more binding on the issues than on the personality of the candidate. It was eminently proper under the circumstances that the question should be submitted to a referendum vote of the state convention. This was opposed by Mr. Bryan's personal enemies, who illogically opposed the very thing that would prove whether or not he disobeyed the mandate of his people. The speech of Mr. Metcalfe in defense of Mr. Bryan's position was one of the best ever delivered before a popular assembly. With such a speech, not to mention the cause it advocated, it is not strange that the vote of approval was so large.

## NO LIMIT

The Sioux City (Iowa) Journal has an interesting cartoon on the battleship proposition. A number of individuals representing the various nations of the world are seated around a table playing poker with battleships for "chips." Throwing in a number of vessels, England says: "I raise you twenty battleships." Germany follows, "I raise you." Other nations increase the bid until Uncle Sam finally "raises them all." A long-suffering individual representing the taxpayer looks on at the game and exclaims: "Gosh, isn't there any limit to this game?" No, Mr. Taxpayer, there is no limit to the game. The only way for anyone to "beat the game" will be for some nation to become big enough, broad enough and brave enough to stop the game and stand upon its great moral force. The United States of America ought to be equal to this emergency.

## DR. ELIOT FOR WILSON

A Boston, Mass., dispatch says: "Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard university, is an ardent supporter of Woodrow Wilson for the presidency. He said so after his world trip, which ended when he and his party stepped from the western train at the Back Bay station and proceeded to Brookline. 'I have read the three platforms since landing at Frisco and I must confess I was amused to notice that all three claimed title to the progressive spirit,' he said. 'They are all progressive if one is to judge from the claims of the platforms.'"

## OLLIE JAMES' LITTLE JOKE

Special dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald: Washington, Aug. 5.—"The name bull moose as applied to Colonel Roosevelt is a misnomer," said Senator-elect Ollie James of Kentucky, who was permanent chairman of the democratic national convention at Baltimore. "Bull moose nothing; it should be bull loose and the republican party is the china shop."

## Governor Wilson's First Campaign Speech

Governor Wilson delivered his first campaign speech at Gloucester, N. Y. He was given a great ovation, particularly by the farmers present. Governor Wilson said, in part:

"I am interested in politics, not as a search for office, but as a great contest devoted to something very definite and practical, indeed. Politics ought not to be considered as a mere occasion for oratory. Politics ought to be considered as a branch of the national business, and as a man who talks politics to tell his fellow citizens very distinctly what he thinks about their affairs and what his own attitude toward them is.

"Here we are at a farmers' picnic, and on this day I suppose we might say that the farmers occupy the center of the stage. When did the farmers ever occupy the center of the stage in our politics? I don't remember any time. I have seen the interests of a great many classes especially regarded in legislation, but I must frankly say that I have seldom seen the interests of the farmer regarded in legislation. And one of the greatest impositions upon the farmer of this country that has ever been devised is the present tariff legislation of the United States.

"I have not heard of farmers waiting for a hearing before the committee on ways and means of the house and the finance committee of the senate in order to take part in determining what the tariff schedule should be. While you were feeding the world congress was feeding the trusts. Nobody doubts what the process of tariff legislation has been, because everybody who has been curious enough to inquire knows what the process of tariff legislation has been.

"I would be ashamed of myself if I tried to stir up any feeling on the part of any classes against any other class. I wish to disavow all intention of suggesting to the farmer that he go in and do somebody up. That is not the point. All that I am modestly suggesting to you is that you break into your own house and live there. I want you to examine very critically the character of the tenants who have been occupying it. It is a very big house and very few people have been living in it, and the rent has been demanded of you and not of them. You have paid the money which enabled them to live in your own house and dominate your own premises.

"I regard this campaign as I regarded the last one and the one before the last and every campaign in which the people have taken part since the world began, as simply a continued struggle to see to it that the people were taken care of by their own government, and my indictment against the tariff is that it represents special partnerships and does not represent the general interests. It is a long time since tariffs were made by men who even supposed they were seeking to serve the general interest, because tariffs are not made by the general body of members of either house of congress. They have in the past been made by very small groups of individuals in certain committees of those houses, who even refused information to their fellow members as to the basis upon which they had acted in framing the schedules.

"One of the gentlemen who has been most conspicuously connected with this thing has in recent years prudently withdrawn from public life. I mean the one-time senior senator from Rhode Island, Mr. Aldrich. I at least give Mr. Aldrich the credit of having had a large weather eye. He saw the weather was changing in Rhode Island, even in Rhode Island as well as in the rest of the union; the men who had long known he was imposing upon them felt that the limit had been reached, and they were not going to be imposed upon any longer. They saw that he was not even doing what he pretended to do, namely, to serve the special interests of Rhode Island, because he was serving only some of the special interests of Rhode Island and not all of them.

"Now there are various questions which you gentlemen ought to realize are pending, questions that directly concern the farmer of this country. The tariff intimately concerns the farmer of this country. It makes a great deal of difference to you that Mr. Taft the other day vetoed the steel bill. It makes a difference to you in the cost of practically every tool that you use upon the farm, and it is very significant, or ought to be significant to you, that the democratic house of representatives has passed the steel tariff reduction bill over the president's veto, a thing I am informed is unprecedented in

the history of the country, that a house should have passed the tariff measures, the wool measure and the steel measure over the veto of the president.

"Tariff measures are not measures for the merchants, merely, and the manufacturer. The farmer pays just as big a proportion of the tariff duties as anybody else. Indeed, sometimes when we are challenged to say who the consumer is, as contrasted with the producer, so far as the tariff is concerned, I am tempted to answer 'the farmer,' because he does not produce any of the things that get any material benefit from the tariff, and he consumes all of the things which are taxed under the tariff system."

## POLITICAL HEALTH

"Practical Ideals" (a magazine) says: We want political health as we want health in every other phase of human life. Of mere party politics "Practical Ideals" has little to say, enough if it is clean and wholesome and the party leaders of conspicuous ability and character. Every leader in politics and candidate for government office is being subjected now-a-days to the severest scrutiny and criticism. Reputations are made in politics in a day as it were, and often unmade as quickly. The true statesman will first or last be known and be appreciated. The reputation to stand the test of time must be based on a solid foundation. No matter how far such an one is in advance of his time, the world catches up with him first or last—in these live days of general intelligence almost first—even while the person of the true reputation lives.

A prominent leader in politics for some years past, William J. Bryan seems according to general testimony—even of his political enemies—to have come signally to honor in the late convention of the democratic party at Baltimore. He is even said to have saved the party in dire peril among political breakers and brought it to safe landing and to him, it is freely acknowledged, is mainly due the satisfactory outcome of the convention.

We have presented here a forceful illustration in the political sphere of the rapidity of progress in modern times. Isn't it remarkable that today we have the leading men of both parties—the reader can name them—contending openly and strenuously for what Mr. Bryan, standing alone, contended for only a few years back. Mr. Bryan has weathered the wholesale detraction of his political opponents—made for party and commercial purposes—and now seems likely to have his great merits at last acknowledged.

## A CLEAN CAMPAIGN FUND

The New York World says: "The check for \$1,000 which William J. Bryan sent to the democratic national committee is said to be the largest single contribution yet received. If this be true, even if at the end of the campaign it should still be true, democracy might be proud of the record. A great deal of money is needed for the legitimate uses of a campaign, but it is clean money when it comes in sums of moderate size from many people interested in the triumph of a political theory or principle. It is dirty money when it comes from an insurance company without knowledge or consent of its policyholders; or from a Harriman expecting to edit a president's message; or from 'the Morgan interests which are so friendly to us;' from a corporation that is trying to buy privilege, or even from a harmless millionaire who merely seeks to make his country ridiculous as an ambassador abroad. No fear that the people will not support a people's campaign sufficiently for proper purposes. No greater and no other support is necessary."

The people must not, however, forget that considerable money is necessary to carry on a presidential campaign. The Commoner urges its readers everywhere to contribute what they can to the democratic campaign fund. Subscriptions sent to The Commoner will be acknowledged and forwarded to the treasurer of the democratic national committee.

Federal Judge Spear, facing the danger of impeachment proceedings, takes a four month's vacation for his health. We begin to entertain grave fears that a position upon the federal bench is very much like the Isthmus of Panama was before the medical corps took hold. The federal bench should be disinfected, fumigated or drained.